CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A recording medium comprising:

a memory that is configured to store content material,

5   a usage indicator that is configured to record a measure of usage associated with the content material of this recording medium, and

a baseline register that is configured to store at least one baseline-usage parameter that facilitates a determination of a validity period associate with the content material based on the usage indicator.

10

2. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein

the usage indicator includes a counter that is configured to be incremented by a playback device when the playback device accesses the content material.

15   3. The recording medium of claim 2, wherein

the at least one baseline-usage parameter includes

a copy of the measure of usage of the recording medium when the content material is stored in the memory.

20   4. The recording medium of claim 5, wherein

the at least one baseline-usage parameter also includes

a usage limit that facilitates the determination of the validity period.

5. The recording medium of claim 2, wherein

25   the at least one baseline-usage parameter is stored in the baseline register in a secure form that facilitates a determination of an authenticity of the at least one baseline-usage parameter.

6. The recording medium of claim 5, wherein

the at least one baseline-usage parameter is associated with the content material in a secure form that facilitates a determination of an authorization of the content material.

5   7. The recording medium of claim 6, wherein

the content material contains a watermark, and

the at least one baseline-usage parameter further includes

a ticket that is based on a hash value of the watermark.

10   8. The recording medium of claim 2, wherein

the at least one baseline-usage parameter includes a security encoding that is based on a private key of a public-private key pair that is associated with a providing source of the content material, and

the security encoding includes at least one of:

15   a digital signature bound to the at least one baseline-usage parameter, and

an encryption of the at least one baseline-usage parameter.

9. A playback device that is configured to render content material that is contained on a recording medium, the playback device comprising:

a player that is configured to render the content material based on an authorization flag,

5   a usage determinator that is configured to determine a usage-measure associated with the recording medium,

a baseline determinator that is configured to determine at least one baseline-usage parameter that facilitates determination of a validity period associated with the content material, and

10   an authorization device that is configured to affect the authorization flag based on the usage-measure associated with the recording medium and the validity period associated with the content material.

10. The playback device of claim 9, further including:

15   a usage incrementer that is configured to advance a usage indicator within the recording medium to facilitate determination of the usage-measure associated with the recording medium.

11. The playback device of claim 9, further including

20   a security device that is configured to verify the at least one baseline-usage parameter based on a public-key of a public-private key pair that is associated with a provider of the content material.

12. The playback device of claim 11, wherein

25   the security device is further configured to verify the at least one baseline-usage parameter based on at least one of:

a digital signature bound to the at least one baseline-usage parameter, and

an encryption of the at least one baseline-usage parameter.

30

13. The playback device of claim 11, wherein

the at least one baseline-usage parameter is bound to the content material in a secure form,

the security device is configured to verify an association between the at least one

5   baseline-usage parameter and the content material, and

the authorization device is further configured to affect the authorization flag in dependence upon the association between the at least one baseline-usage parameter and the content material.

10   14. The playback device of claim 9, wherein

the at least one baseline-usage parameter is bound to a ticket that is based on a watermark of the content material, and

the authorization device is further configured to affect the authorization flag in dependence upon the ticket and the watermark.

15

15. A provider of content material comprising:

a recorder that is configured to record a copy of the content material on a recording medium,

an allocator that is configured to allocate a portion of a total-usage measure to the

5   copy of the content material,

a baseline-usage determinator that is configured

to determine a measure of usage associated with the recording medium,

to provide at least one baseline-usage parameter based on the measure of usage associated with the recording medium and the portion of the total-usage measure

10   allocated to the copy of the content material, and

to record the at least one baseline-usage parameter on the recording

medium.

16. The provider of claim 15, further comprising

15   a security device that is configured to encode the at least one baseline-usage parameter in a secure form that includes at least one of:

a digital signature bound to the at least one baseline-usage parameter, and

an encryption of the measure of usage.

20   17. The provider of claim 16, wherein

the security device is further configured to bind the at least one baseline-usage parameter to the content material.

18. The provider of claim 16, wherein

25   the security device is further configured to bind the at least one baseline-usage parameter to a ticket that is a hashed value of a watermark that is associated with the content material.

19. The provider of claim 15, wherein

the allocator is further configured to de-allocate the portion of the total-usage measure when the recording medium is subsequently processed by the provider of the content material.

5

20. The provider of claim 15, wherein

the allocator is further configured to de-allocate the portion of the total-usage measure after a given time duration.

10

21. A method of providing content material, the method comprising:

recording the content material on a recording medium,

allocating a portion of a total-usage measure to the content material on the

recording medium,

5   determining a measure of usage associated with the recording medium, and

recording at least one baseline-usage parameter on the recording medium based on

the measure of usage associate with the recording medium and the portion of the total-

usage measure, to facilitate a determination of a validity period associated with the content

material on the recording medium.

10

22. The method of claim 21, further including

de-allocating the portion of the total-usage measure when the recording medium is

subsequently processed.

15   23. The method of claim 21, further including

de-allocating the portion of the total-usage measure after a given time duration.

24. The method of claim 21, further including

binding the at least one baseline-usage parameter to the content material.

20

25. The method of claim 21, further including

encoding the at least one baseline-usage parameter in a secure form,

the secure form including at least one of:

a digital signature bound to the at least one baseline-usage parameter, and

25   an encryption of the at least one baseline-usage parameter.

26. The method of claim 21, further including

binding the at least one baseline-usage parameter to a ticket that is a hashed value

of a watermark that is associated with the content material.

30

27. A method of rendering content material that is stored on a recording medium, the method comprising:

   determining at least one baseline-usage parameter associated with the recording medium

5   determining a validity period associated with the content material based on the baseline-usage parameter,

   determining a measure of usage associated with the recording medium and

   rendering the content material in dependence upon the validity period and the measure of usage.

10

28. The method of claim 27, further including

   determining an authenticity of the baseline-usage parameter and

   wherein

   the rendering of the content material is in further dependence upon the authenticity

15 of the baseline-usage parameter.

29. The method of claim 27, further including

   decrypting the content material to facilitate said rendering.

20   30. The method of claim 27, further including

   determining a ticket value associated with the content material,

   determining a watermark associated with the content material,

   comparing a hashed value of the watermark to the ticket value to determine an authorization associated with the content material, and

25   wherein

   the rendering of the content material is in further dependence upon the authorization associated with the content material.

30